IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 2-3, 7-8 and 14-15.

Please amend the claims as follows.

1. (Currently Amended) An apparatus comprising:

at least one processor;

a memory coupled to the at least one processor;

a plurality of logical partitions defined on the apparatus, the plurality of logical partitions comprising at least one logical partition that owns identified I/O and at least one logical partition that does not own the identified I/O;

a partition manager residing in the memory and executed by the at least one processor, the partition manager managing the plurality of logical partitions and executing separately from the plurality of logical partitions, the partition manager comprising:

an I/O reconfiguration mechanism that reconfigures the identified I/O; and

a logical partition suspend/resume mechanism that suspends ~~at least one~~ all of the plurality of logical partitions before the I/O reconfiguration mechanism reconfigures the identified I/O by inhibiting dispatch of tasks to ~~the at least one logical partition~~ all of the plurality of logical partitions and waiting until all pending tasks in ~~the at least one logical partition~~ all of the plurality of logical partitions are complete, and that resumes all ~~suspended~~ of the plurality of logical partitions after the I/O reconfiguration mechanism reconfigures the identified I/O by enabling dispatch of tasks to ~~the at least one logical partition~~ all of the plurality of logical partitions.

2-3 (Cancelled)

4 (Currently Amended) An apparatus comprising:

at least one processor;

a memory coupled to the at least one processor;

a plurality of logical partitions defined on the apparatus, the plurality of logical partitions comprising at least one logical partition that owns identified I/O and at least one logical partition that does not own the identified I/O; and

a partition manager residing in the memory and executed by the at least one processor and executing separately from the plurality of logical partitions, the partition manager performing the steps of:

(1) detecting when the identified I/O requires reconfiguration;

(2) suspending ~~at least one~~ all of the plurality of logical partitions by inhibiting dispatch of tasks to ~~the at least one logical partition~~ all of the plurality of logical partitions and waiting until all pending tasks in ~~the at least one logical partition~~ all of the plurality of logical partitions are complete;

(3) reconfiguring the identified I/O; and

(4) resuming all of the plurality of logical partitions ~~suspended in step (2)~~ by enabling dispatch of tasks to all of the plurality of logical partitions ~~suspended in step (2)~~.

5. (Currently Amended) An apparatus comprising:

at least one processor;

a memory coupled to the at least one processor;

a plurality of logical partitions defined on the apparatus, the plurality of logical partitions comprising at least one logical partition that owns identified I/O and at least one logical partition that does not own the identified I/O;

a partition manager residing in the memory and executed by the at least one processor and executing separately from the plurality of logical partitions, the partition manager performing the steps of:

(1) quiescing the identified I/O;

(2) suspending ~~at least one~~ all of the plurality of logical partitions ~~that owns at least a portion of the identified I/O~~ by inhibiting dispatch of tasks to ~~the at least one logical partition~~ all of the plurality of logical partitions and waiting until all pending tasks in ~~the at least one logical partition~~ all of the plurality of logical partitions are complete;

(3) reconfiguring the identified I/O;

(4) enabling the reconfigured identified I/O; and

(5) resuming all of the plurality of logical partitions ~~suspended in step (2)~~ by enabling dispatch of tasks to all of the plurality of logical partitions ~~suspended in step (2)~~.

6. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method for reconfiguring identified I/O in a computer system that includes a plurality of logical partitions managed by a partition manager executing separately from the plurality of logical partitions, the plurality of logical partitions comprising at least one logical partition that owns the identified I/O and at least one logical partition that does not own the identified I/O, the method comprising the steps of:

(1) the partition manager suspending ~~at least one~~ all of the plurality of logical partitions by inhibiting dispatch of tasks to ~~the at least one logical partition~~ all of the plurality of logical partitions and waiting until all pending tasks in ~~the at least one logical partition~~ all of the plurality of logical partitions are complete;

(2) the partition manager reconfiguring the identified I/O; and

(3) the partition manager resuming all of the plurality of logical partitions ~~suspended in step (1)~~ by enabling dispatch of tasks to all of the plurality of logical partitions ~~suspended in step (1)~~.

7-8 (Cancelled)

9. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method for reconfiguring identified I/O in a computer system that includes a plurality of logical partitions managed by a partition manager executing separately from the plurality of logical partitions, the plurality of logical partitions comprising at least one logical partition that owns the identified I/O and at least one logical partition that does not own the identified I/O, the method comprising the steps of:

(1) the partition manager detecting when the identified I/O requires reconfiguration;

(2) the partition manager suspending ~~at least one~~ all of the plurality of logical partitions by inhibiting dispatch of tasks to ~~the at least one logical partition~~ all of the plurality of logical partitions and waiting until all pending tasks in ~~the at least one logical partition~~ all of the plurality of logical partitions are complete;

(3) the partition manager reconfiguring the identified I/O; and

(4) the partition manager resuming all of the plurality of logical partitions ~~suspended in step (2)~~ by enabling dispatch of tasks to all of the plurality of logical partitions ~~suspended in step (2)~~.

10. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method for reconfiguring identified I/O in a computer system that includes a plurality of logical partitions managed by a partition manager executing separately from the plurality of logical partitions, the plurality of logical partitions comprising at least one logical partition that owns the identified I/O and at least one logical partition that does not own the identified I/O, the method comprising the steps of:

(1) the partition manager quiescing the identified I/O;

(2) the partition manager suspending ~~at least one~~ all of the plurality of logical partitions ~~that owns at least a portion of the identified I/O~~ by inhibiting dispatch of tasks to ~~the at least one logical partition~~ all of the plurality of logical partitions and waiting until all pending tasks in ~~the at least one logical partition~~ all of the plurality of logical partitions are complete;

(3) the partition manager reconfiguring the identified I/O;

(4) the partition manager enabling the reconfigured identified I/O; and

(5) the partition manager resuming all of the plurality of logical partitions ~~suspended in step (2)~~ by enabling dispatch of tasks to all of the plurality of logical partitions ~~suspended in step (2)~~.

11. (Currently Amended) A program product comprising:

(A) a partition manager executing separately from a plurality of logical partitions comprising at least one logical partition that owns identified I/O and at least one logical partition that does not own the identified I/O, the partition manager comprising a logical partition suspend/resume mechanism that suspends ~~at least one~~ all of the plurality of logical partitions before the identified I/O is reconfigured by inhibiting dispatch of tasks to ~~the at least one logical partition~~ all of the plurality of logical partitions and waiting until all pending tasks in ~~the at least one logical partition~~ all of the plurality of logical partitions are complete, the logical partition suspend/resume mechanism resuming all ~~suspended~~ of the plurality of logical partitions after the identified I/O is reconfigured by enabling dispatch of tasks to ~~the at least one logical partition~~ all of the plurality of logical partitions; and

(B) recordable media bearing the partition manager.

12-15 (Cancelled)

16. (Currently Amended) A program product comprising:

(A) a partition manager executing separately from a plurality of logical partitions, the plurality of logical partitions comprising at least one logical partition that owns identified I/O and at least one logical partition that does not own the identified I/O, ~~that performs~~ the partition manager performing the steps of:

(1) detecting when the identified I/O requires reconfiguration;

(2) suspending ~~at least one~~ all of the plurality of logical partitions by inhibiting dispatch of tasks to ~~the at least one logical partition~~ all of the plurality of logical partitions and waiting until all pending tasks in ~~the at least one logical partition~~ all of the plurality of logical partitions are complete;

(3) reconfiguring the identified I/O; and

(4) resuming all of the plurality of logical partitions ~~suspended in step (2)~~ by enabling dispatch of tasks to all of the plurality of logical partitions ~~suspended in step (2)~~; and

(B) recordable media bearing the partition manager.

17-18 (Cancelled)

19. (Currently Amended) A program product comprising:

(A) a partition manager executing separately from a plurality of logical partitions, the plurality of logical partitions comprising at least one logical partition that owns identified I/O and at least one logical partition that does not own the identified I/O, ~~that performs~~ the partition manager performing the steps of:

(1) quiescing the identified I/O;

(2) suspending ~~at least one~~ all of the plurality of logical partitions ~~that owns at least a portion of the identified I/O~~ by inhibiting dispatch of tasks to ~~the at least one logical partition~~ all of the plurality of logical partitions and waiting until all pending tasks in ~~the at least one logical partition~~ all of the plurality of logical partitions are complete;

(3) reconfiguring the identified I/O;

(4) enabling the reconfigured identified I/O; and

(5) resuming all of the plurality of logical partitions ~~suspended in step (2)~~ by enabling dispatch of tasks to all of the plurality of logical partitions ~~suspended in step (2)~~; and

(B) recordable media bearing the partition manager.

20-21 (Cancelled)

STATUS OF THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-21 were originally filed in this patent application. In response to the first office action dated 8/30/05, applicants filed an amendment on 11/30/05 that cancelled claims 12, 13, 17, 18, 20 and 21 and amended claims 1, 4-6, 9-11, 16 and 19. In response to the second office action dated 02/06/2006, an RCE and Amendment were filed on 05/04/2006. In response to the third office action dated 07/12/2006, an Amendment was filed that amended claims 1, 4-6, 9-11, 16 and 19. In the pending fourth office action, claims 1-11, 14-16 and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Application Publication 2003/0084030 to Day *et al.* (hereinafter "Day") in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication 2002/0112102 to Tarui *et al.* (hereinafter "Tarui"). No claim was allowed. In this amendment, claims 2-3, 7-8 and 14-15 have been cancelled, and claims 1, 4-6, 9-11, 16 and 19 have been amended. Claims 1, 4-6, 9-11, 16 and 19 are currently pending.